



IDW Mission Grant Evaluation Report Form

Grant recipients are to complete and submit the report form within one month of the completion of the effort. If this is a continuing ministry, please submit a report by January 31st of the following year, in which the grant is received. Include pictures/videos that help share the story with other congregations to encourage them in their own ministry. Final grant funds will be sent upon receipt of this evaluation.

Contact Person, Congregation, and email address:

Kent Ziebell, St. Paul Lutheran Preschool, kent.ziebell@gmail.com

1. Please provide a brief overview of the effort:

Preschool Grandparents' Day was held on Monday, November 20, and on Tuesday, November 21. The St. Paul Preschool board decided to use this as a mission project. We asked all of our 72 preschoolers to invite their grandparents to a Grandparents' Day at our church. Most had at least one grandparent attend, and some had more than one. For those whose grandparents were unable to attend, our preschooler director Lori Jenks asked members of St. Paul to be a grandparent to those preschoolers for that day.

We also got other members of St. Paul involved to help greet and serve breakfast to our guests. We asked specifically for members who are prayer partners to preschoolers to volunteer. We all had name tags, and it worked very well to mingle among our guests and talk and welcome them to St. Paul. We had seven volunteers helping on Monday, and seven working on Tuesday. The event was very well attended and the grandparents provided wonderful feedback with many, many thank you's. On Monday, we had 28 grandparents, and 13 preschoolers who attended. On Tuesday morning we had 43 grandparents, and 27 preschoolers attend. And on Tuesday afternoon we had 23 grandparents and 15 preschoolers. We have five different classes of preschoolers, and the event was split by class. The teachers had crafts for the kids and grandparents to work on, and well as chapel time in our sanctuary. Our teachers also had the kids sing songs to their grandparents. We know that many of our preschooler families have no home church. This gave preschoolers and grandparents a chance to see St. Paul, and meet some of our members. We felt this was a great outreach, and part of our mission.

2. What goals were established for this effort and what did you hope to accomplish?

Our goal was to interact with the families of our preschoolers. We know that many of the families that come to our preschool do not have a church home. This was an opportunity to witness to the families, let them experience chapel time, and for our congregational prayer partners to help serve and to interact with the families.

3. Did you achieve your goals? If not, what do you think were some of the contributing factors?

We were very pleased with the outcome, as we had a large number of grandparents attend the events. And our congregation stepped to the plate and helped. We were pleased that our helpers mingled with the families.

4. Is there anything you would do differently if you were to undertake this effort again?

We don't think so. It went very well.

5. What lessons were learned through this effort?

I think inviting the families of our 72 preschoolers to an event at church was a great idea of a way to do outreach. Our preschool is one of our primary missions of our church, St. Paul Lutheran in Ames, Iowa. Getting the families into the church, letting them experience chapel time, and interacting and talking to them was a great idea. We feel this is another way to reach out to our community as a part of Jesus on a Mission.

6. Will this outreach effort continue and be sustaining? Did a new outreach opportunity present itself?

We hope that having the families in church touched some hearts. Perhaps some families without church homes will find their way to our church. We will continue to use the preschool as a way to reach out to our community and families without church homes.

7. What suggestions would you give to a congregation considering a similar effort?

Fun activities to get the community into the church is a great start. Then including prayers, and having members interact and share Jesus's love. By greeting them and reaching out to them, they can see we are Christians.